

**THE TENNESSEE SOCIETY IN NEW YORK
COLLECTION
1905-1949**

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INTRODUCTION

The Tennessee Society in New York Collection, 1905-1949, is centered around the Tennessee Society in New York. The Tennessee Society in New York Collection is a gift of the society. The collection occupies 2.26 cubic feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 1,200 items.

Single copies of unpublished writings in the Tennessee Society in New York Collection may be made for the purposes of scholarly research.

ORGANIZATION SKETCH

In the late 1890s, a group of Tennesseans living in New York gathered together to form a small societal organization. All were graduates of the state university and wished to maintain their friendships in a strange and unfriendly city. Thus was formed a luncheon group called the N.Y.U.T. Club, which was organized in 1899, and existed for about five years.

The fellowship of the club proved so successful that the idea came to three of its members to broaden its scope into a state society. These three -- Mashall Lawrence Havey, John S. Copper, and J. Walker McSpadden -- constituted a committee that first prepared a list embracing all the Tennesseans in New York of whom they had knowledge, and next issued an invitation to all those interested to meet at an informal smoker at the Noon Day Club, 161 Pearl Street, on the evening of November 16, 1905, to discuss the formation of a state society. Unfortunately, no minutes of this meeting were preserved. Sixteen men were present including the following: John S. Cooper, Edward H. Edwards, Albert L. Hall, M. Lawrence Havey, Charles W. Hill, Arthur B. Hyman, Edward F. Kern, Charles E. Mitchell, J. Walker McSpadden, George Henry Smith, E. W. Stratmann, all of Knoxville; E. Clyde Sherwood, Henry P. Waugh, William N. Jeragen, all of Morristown; Charles S. Andrews of Chattanooga, and Ralph H. Williams of Greenville.

The second meeting, held December 7, 1905, was called the birthday of the Tennessee Society in New York, for it was at this meeting that a constitution was adopted and officers elected. Twenty-one men were present, representing the three geographical divisions of the state. The original governing board was as follows: Dr. William Meckenburg Polk, President; Martin W. Littleton, Vice-President; Champe S. Andrews, Vice-President; J. Walker McSpadden, Vice-President; Martin J. Condon, Vice-President; M. Lawrence Havey, Secretary; E. Clyde Sherwood, Treasurer; Frank D. Caruthers, trustee; H. R. Forbes, trustee, Albert L. Hall, trustee; John L. English, trustee; Michael Gavin, trustee; Junius Parker, trustee; and William Hepburn Russell, trustee.

The first monthly smoker was held at the Aldine Club on January 16, 1906. Forty three names were added to the rapidly growing membership. At the second smoker held only a month later, February 15, 1906, the membership reached a total of one hundred and forty six. The First Annual Dinner was held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on April 3, 1906, with two hundred and eight members and friends attending.

The second annual business meeting, held November 15, 1906, in the Waldorf-Astoria, had a roster of one hundred and sixty three active members, nine honorary members, and eleven non-resident members.

ORGANIZATION SKETCH, continued:

During the society's history a number of special dinners were held honoring individuals and groups. Among these were a special dinner and reception honoring Sergeant Alvin C. York, outstanding hero of World War I, who was the guest of honor of the Society for five days. At the dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria on May 23, 1919, distinguished persons at the guest table were: Admiral Albert N. Gleaves, a Tennessean who commanded the cruiser and transport force during the World War I; Major George B. Duncan, Sergeant York's superior officer; Joseph Cummings Chase, the artist who painted York's portrait for the War Department; Paul D. Cravath, a prominent attorney; and a quiet Tennessean then known chiefly as a Representative, Cordell Hull. A year later, the battleship U.S.S. Tennessee and her officers and men were honored for their service during the hostilities, and in 1932 the University of Tennessee football team was honored for its winning season.

The actual date of the society's dissolution is unknown.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Tennessee Society in New York Collection, 1905-1949, is composed of bills, notes, receipts, applications, agendas, clippings, correspondence, financial documents, invitations, lists, memorabilia, notes, photographs, drawings, and printed materials. The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence, printed materials, and lists.

The correspondence is mostly from fellow members, guests, and business acquaintances. A majority of the letters are from A. Weisbrod, general manager of Louis Sherry, New York, and J. Arc Williams, secretary of the society.

Prominent correspondents include Governor Prentice Cooper and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, both honorary members of the society. Governor Cooper and Mr. Hull's correspondence deals mostly with responses to invitations concerning social dinners and invitations during the New York World's Fair of 1939. Hill McAllister is also included in the correspondence.

There are many lists included in this collection. The bulk of the lists pertain to membership, seating lists for the many dinners and smokers, officers of the society, and potential members.

The printed material consists of booklets (1907-1943), the constitution of the society, and programs of the society's events.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Accounts--Bills, notes, receipts-Tennessee Society in New York, 1942-1948
2. Applications--Tennessee Society in New York, 1933
3. Associations, institutions, etc.--The Tennessee Society in New York-Agenda, 1948
4. Associations, institutions, etc.--The Tennessee Society in New York-Constitution
5. Clippings--Chattanooga Times-"Looking Backward"-3-20-1949
6. Correspondence--Allen-Brown
7. Correspondence--Campbell, Matthew M.-Cunningham, Jack
8. Correspondence--Dance, Robert F.-Esson, Jean M.
9. Correspondence--Finley, Luke-Fox, Van B.
10. Correspondence--Garretson, Anne T.-Gregson, Frank
11. Correspondence--Hamilton, Hildegard-Hyman, Arthur, B.
12. Correspondence--Jackson, N. Baxter-Kuhn, John L.
13. Correspondence--Lanin, Jimmy-Myrick, Julian S.
14. Correspondence--Neal, Edward F.-Noble, E.B.
15. Correspondence--Oscar-Ryan C.
16. Correspondence--Schenk, John T.-Turley, W.V.
17. Correspondence--Ward-Smith, K.-Woods, Albert

Box 2

1. Financial documents--Society statements
2. Invitations--New York Southern Society
3. Invitations--The Tennessee Society in New York
4. Lists--Membership-The New York Society of Tennessee Women
5. Lists--Membership-The Tennessee Society in New York
6. Lists--Membership-The Vanderbilt Club
7. Lists--Seating-The Tennessee Society in New York, 1939-1948
8. Lists--Seating-The Cabinet Dinner, 12-6-1913
9. Lists--Supplementary
10. Memorabilia--"Sergeant York", 1941
11. Memorabilia--Tennessee Day, New York's World's Fair, 1939
12. Notes--Sympathy-Overall, Miss Mary Olivia
13. Notices--Notice of annual meeting-The Tennessee Society in New York, 1934-1946
14. Photographs, drawings, etc.--diagram-Louis Sherry
15. Printed materials--Booklet-"The Tennessee Society in New York, 1907-1943"
16. Printed materials--Bulletin-The National Arts Club, 1947
17. Programs--Jackson Day Dinner, 1920-1946
18. Reports--Nominating Committee, 1913
19. Reservations--Jackson Day Dinner, 1945
20. Reservations--Jackson Day Dinner, 1948

21. Tributes--Cordell Hull

CONTAINER LIST, continued:

Box 3

1. Writings--J. Walker McSpadden - "Storm Center"

Box 4

1. Associations, institutions, etc.--Scrapbook - The Tennessee Society in New York, 1905-1913
2. Associations, institutions, etc.--Flag - State of Tennessee